

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

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FM AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9369

USDOC WASHDC

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: BEXP, AR

SUBJECT: CGE TRADE MISSION TO THE U.S.

REF: A) BA 9753; B) FA 9018; C) STATE 279977; D) BA 9333

1. TWO WEEKS BEFORE THE DEPARTURE OF THE TRADE MISSION, THE EMBASSY FINDS THE CGE'S PREPARATIONS FOR THE MISSION CONTINUE TO BE DEFICIENT AND ARE BEHIND SCHEDULE. WE FEEL THEIR LACK OF COORDINATION WITH THE ARGENTINE EMBASSY IN WASHINGTON AND THEIR CONSULATE IN NEW YORK, AS WELL AS A LATE START, ARE RESPONSIBLE. WE UNDERSTAND THAT THE CONSUL GENERAL IN NEW YORK, MR. FEDERICO BERNINI, HAS BEEN APPOINTED AS COORDINATOR FOR THE NEW YORK LEG AND THAT AMBASSADOR ORFILA IS PERSONALLY TAKING CHARGE OF THE WASHINGTON LEG.

2. WE REALIZE THAT THE RESPONSIBILITY FOR A SUCCESSFUL COMMERCIAL MISSION LIES WITH THE ARGENTINE OFFICIALS, AND WE HAVE MADE THIS CRYSTAL CLEAR TO THE CGE. NEVERTHELESS, WE REITERATE THAT IT IS IN THE INTEREST OF THE U.S.-ARGENTINE TRADE AND GENERAL RELATIONS THAT THE GROUP BE ACCORDED A MINIMUM OF COURTESIES. THE EMBASSY WOULD LIKE TO SUGGEST THAT WASHINGTON AND NEW YORK UNDERTAKE THE FOLLOWING SPECIFIC NON COMMERCIAL ASSISTANCE TO THE GROUP: (1) MEET THEM AND FACILITATE THEIR PASSAGE THROUGH CUSTOMS; (2) IN COOPERATION WITH THE ARGENTINE CONSULATE GENERAL IN NEW YORK ENCOURAGE AN APPROPRIATE NEW YORK CHAMBER TO OFFER A FUNCTION IN UNCLASSIFIED

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HONOR OF THE VISITING ARGENTINES; (3) RECEIVE THE

OFFICIAL ELEMENT OF THE GROUP IN WASHINGTON, AND HOST SOME SORT OF FUNCTION FOR THEM, AS WELL AS OBTAINING RELEVANT APPOINTMENTS WITH APPROPRIATE USG OFFICIALS, AS TIMING PERMITS AND THE NAMES OF THE SPECIFIC OFFICIALS ARE AVAILABLE; (4) SEE THEM OFF.

3. THE OFFICIAL CONTINGENT WILL BE ARRIVING IN WASH ON THURSDAY, JAN 17 AND BE LEAVING THAT WEEK-END. WE ARE UNLIKELY TO KNOW THE NAMES OF THE OFFICIAL REPRESENTATIVES TRAVELLING WITH THE MISSION UNTIL THREE OR FOUR DAYS BEFORE THE MISSION'S DEPARTURE. ACCORDINGLY WE SUGGEST THAT A SINGLE ALL-PURPOSE FUNCTION TO WHICH APPROPRIATE USG OFFICIALS AND OTHERS (COUNTERPARTS OF THE OFFICIAL ARGENTINE DELEGATION) WOULD BE INVITED, BE HELD ON THE 16TH OR 17TH. APPOINTMENTS WITH APPROPRIATE USG OFFICIALS FOR THE OFFICIALS CONTINGENT AS A GROUP MIGHT ALSO BE MADE NOW, WITH SPECIFICALLY TAILORED APPOINTMENTS TO BE SET UP FEASIBLE ONCE WE HAVE THE LIST OF NAMES. WE SUPPOSE THAT AMBASSADOR ORFILA OR MR. BERNINI HAS BEEN WORKING ON NEW YORK BUSINESS ASSOCIATIONS TO ENCOURAGE THEM TO OFFER SOME FORM OF HOSPITALITY TO THE VISITORS. HOWEVER, NEITHER THE MISSION ORGANIZERS NOR THE EMBASSY ARE AWARE OF ANY RESULTS OF SUCH REPRESENTATIONS. WE THEREFORE, SUGGEST THAT USDOC DISTRICT OFFICE GET IN TOUCH WITH MR. BERNINI AND OFFER ANY ASSISTANCE IN THIS REGARD WHICH THEY FEEL THEY ARE IN A POSITION TO PROVIDE.

4. THE EMBASSY WILL BE OFFERING A FUNCTION IN BUENOS AIRES FOR THE BUSINESS AND GOVERNMENT LEADERS TRAVELLING WITH THE GROUP, SHORTLY BEFORE THEIR DEPARTURE.

5. DR. ALFREDO GOMEZ MORALES, MINISTER OF ECONOMY, IS TRAVELING TO THE U.S. TO ATTEND THE MEETING OF THE GROUP OF TWENTY AT THE IMF. HOWEVER, GOMEZ MORALES, HAS MADE IT CLEAR THAT HE IS TRAVELING INDEPENDENTLY OF THIS MISSION. OUR READING OF THIS IS NOT THAT GOMEZ MORALES IS TRYING TO PUT DOWN THE TRADE MISSION OR THE CGE, BUT SIMPLY THAT HE DOES NOT WISH TO BECOME CLOSELY IDENTIFIED WITH THE CGE AND ITS PROGRAMS AS WAS HIS PREDECESSOR JOSE GELBARD. THE

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COUNCIL OF THE AMERICAS IN NEW YORK, IN COLLABORATION WITH THE ARGENTINE-AMERICAN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE, THE PAN AMERICAN SOCIETY, AND THE CENTER FOR THE INTERAMERICAN RELATIONS ARE SPONSORING A BRIEFING CUM RECEPTION AND LUNCHEON, WHICH IS TO BEING AT 9:30, THURSDAY, JANUARY 14, IN NEW YORK. THE MINISTER IS TO GIVE A BRIEFING ON ARGENTINE FOREIGN INVESTMENT POLICY. THE TRADE MISSION LEADERSHIP HAVE INVITED TO ATTEND, THIS FUNCTION

WHICH, HOWEVER, IS IN HONOR OF GOMEZ MORALES AND NOT OR
THE TRADE MISSION. THE TRADE MISSION ITSELF PLANS TO
GIVE A COCKTAIL PARTY IN NEW YORK THE FOLLOWING DAY,
WEDNESDAY, 15, TO WHICH USG OFFICIALS WILL BE INVITED.
WE SUPPOSE AMBASSADOR ORFILA WILL ATTEND.
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